

~~for the Board~~
to the
~~Board of Trade~~
England Parliament, May C.

8223.4.

44

P A P E R S

Laid before the Honourable

HOUSE of COMMONS
BY THE
COMMISSIONERS
FOR

Trade and Plantations,

Pursuant to

An Address of the HOUSE of LORDS to His MAJESTY,
the 8th of June 1749.

For the better

Securing, Improving, and Extending,
THE
TRADE to AFRICA.



London:
Printed in the Year M.DCC.L.

• 2 Я З А С

House of Commons

28th January 1833
GOMMISSIONERS

Trade and Plantations

House of Commons
28th January 1833

Second reading by the Committee

348

332

TRADE AND COMMERCE



Billing, in the Year MDCCCLXII.
LOWDOWNE

LIST of the PAPERS.

No. I.

COPY of a Representation, and Proposals, of the Royal African Company to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for securing, improving, and extending, the Trade to *Africa*, p. 5

II.

Copy of a Memorial of the Royal African Company, to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations: With an Estimate of the Charges of a Military Force for Supporting their Forts and Settlements in *Africa*, p. 14

III.

Copy of a Plan from several Merchants of London to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for the better regulating and carrying on the Trade to *Africa*, p. 28

IV.

Copy of a Scheme from several African Merchants and Traders of the City of London to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for securing, improving, and extending, the Trade to *Africa*, p. 32

V.

[4]

V.

Copy of a Scheme, from the Merchants of *Bristol*, to
the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for
securing, improving, and extending, the Trade to
Africa, *1749* to *1751* p. 35

VI.

Copy of a Representation from the Merchants trading
to *Africa* from the Port of *Leverpool* to the Com-
missioners for Trade and Plantations, for carrying
on, extending, and securing, the Trade to *Africa*,
1750 to *1751* p. 42

VII.

Copy of a Representation from the Sugar-Planters,
and others, to the Commissioners for Trade and
Plantations, for retrieving, extending, and preserving,
the Trade to *Africa*, *1750* to *1751* p. 48

VIII.

Copy of a Scheme from a Merchant in the City of *Glasgow*,
for carrying on the Trade to *Africa*, to the Com-
missioners for Trade and Plantations, for extending
the Trade to *Africa*, *1750* to *1751* p. 49

No.

No. I.

**Copy of a Representation, and Proposals
of the Royal African Company, to the
Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for securing, improving, and
extending, the Trade to Africa.**

*To the Right Honourable the Lords for Trade and
Plantations;*

*The Representation and Proposals of the Royal African
Company of England.*

May it please your Lordships,

IN pursuance of a Letter of the 17th July last from Mr. Hill, your Lordships Secretary, we have taken into Consideration what we apprehend will be the best Method of securing, improving, and extending, the *African Trade*; and have given our Opinion in as full and explicit a Manner as we are able, with our Reasons for such Opinion.

We have, in the first Place, taken Leave to offer some Considerations and Remarks on the late Proposal, for preserving and extending the Trade to *Africa* by an open Company, without a Joint-Stock, and on an exclusive Joint-Stock Company, with a View of removing all Obstructions; so that this intricate and important Affair may be cleared up and determined the next Session of Parliament,

S/ B

We

We are willing to give up all our Rights and Property in *Africa* for a reasonable Compensation, or, in case no Subscription can be filled, for a moderate Joint-Stock with a free and open Trade, or no other certain Method shall be agreed on to secure to this Nation the Trade to the *Gold Coast*, *Whyddah*, and *Gambia*: We are willing to engraft with our Creditors upon a reasonable Re-imbursement from the Publick, to enable us to carry on the *African* Trade, and, particularly, to secure those Branches which are of the utmost Consequence to the *British* Plantations in *America*, and, consequently, to the Well-being of the *British* Nation. For which Purpose, we refer your Lordships to the following Particulars.

Considerations on the late Proposal for preserving and extending the Trade to Africa, by an open Company without a Joint-Stock.

It is submitted, Whether any Person should be made a Freeman of such an open Company, with Power to elect Committee-men, unless they shall prove, that they have actually traded to or from *Africa*, within the Year, for 100*l.* or some limited Sum; and not to be a Freeman upon only saying, he intends to trade to *Africa*, and paying Forty Shillings; which, in all Probability, would be but an insignificant Aid, towards the Maintenance, Support, and Improvement, of the Forts and Settlements, and for providing Ammunition, and other Stores, and Officers and Soldiers, to defend the same.

The Committee-men should be under some Checks that they will be true and faithful to the Trust reposed in them, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the intended Act; and, particularly, that they will keep up the Number of Men, Great Guns, Castle-Slaves, and other Necessaries, for the Support and Defence of each of the Forts and Settlements in *Africa*, according to some certain Estimate; and to have an Allowance from the Publick, for a certain Term of Years, to answer the said Purposes: Which, with some Rules of Government, as well Civil as Military, as it now stands in the present Charter of the *African* Company, or in some other Shape, should be established by the said intended Act: And the Committee-men should be obliged to account for the Disposal of the publick Money in *Africa* as the present *African* Company have done till within these few Years, the Accounts not being come Home.

It

It is to be feared, however, that the Committee-men will soon find the great Care and Weight that will lie on them by taking the Charge, disposing of, and accounting for, the *Publick Money* that shall be granted for the Support of the Forts and Settlements in *Africa*; which Accounts have usually taken up about Forty Sheets of large Paper, for One Year only, close wrote, and often copied, and concerns the Employment and Maintenance of many Hundreds of People, Whites and Blacks, and the Direction of a Civil and Military Government, and the Disposal of Goods: And therefore it is apprehended, that it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to find proper Persons, of sufficient Ability, that will or can undertake an Affair that must be attended with so much Trouble, and so little Advantage; besides the fatal Consequences that may attend this Nation from the Loss of the *British Influence*; and, consequently, the *British Rights, Dominion, and Trade*, on the *Gold Coast*, and at *Gambia* and *Whyddah*, for want of a sufficient Allowance from the Publick, and a proper Management, with a permanent Trading-Stock.

And, moreover, the Committee-men, or the Majority of the Freemen that are to chuse such Committee-men, may, peradventure, find it their Interest to trade chiefly to *Angola*, *Calabar*, and other Parts of *Africa*, where the worst Sort of Negroes may be had at lower Prices than the best Sort on the *Gold Coast*. May not Self-interest prevail in this Case, as in other Cases, and encourage such Neglect, or Misconduct, as may hazard the whole *Gold Coast*, and oblige the *British Planters* to give as much for the worst Sort of Negroes, as they may otherwise get the best Sort of Negroes for; which better Sort of Negroes will then go to the Plantations of our Rivals in Trade; who will thereby increase their Sugar-plantations upon our Downfall?

Some special Provision, therefore, should be made, to secure a constant and sufficient Residence, and Supply of Goods, at all the *British Forts and Settlements* on the *Gold Coast*, to carry on the Inland Trade, and thereby support Alliances with the Natives of the adjoining populous Towns, and their neighbouring Allies; and that there be sufficient united Forces, in Cases of Insults. This might be done, by raising Money by Subscription, to afford a constant Supply of Goods at such Forts and Factories on the *Gold Coast*, and also at *Whyddah* and *Gambia*, as may not be otherwise supplied by separate Traders. But such a Provision is no-ways made by the said Proposal, since no Money is to be taken up on the Common Seal; nor can any Money be raised upon a Common Seal

Seal to be expended where there are no Effects, or Security to answer a Reimbursement.

And the Company should be enabled to secure a Balance of Power on the *Gold Coast*, and at *Gambia*, against the Encroachments of the *Dutch* and *French*, or the Insults of the Natives; and, in case of an Insufficiency of Publick Money, on any Emergencies, to have Power to take up Money, and also a Security, that the same shall be afterwards repaid by the Publick; which is noways provided for.

And it can't be suggested, that any separate Trader, or Traders, will advance any considerable Sum, upon the most urgent Occasions, as in Cases of sudden Wars, necessary Repairs, or otherwise, upon the Footing of the said Proposal; whilst there is no joint Obligation, or any Security for a Reimbursement. From hence it is evident, that these Things are not to be done without a Joint-Stock, in some Shape or other; together with a sufficient and certain Allowance and Security from the Publick for some certain Term of Years, to enable a Company to answer all these Purposes.

II.

Remarks on a Proposal for an exclusive Company to carry on the African Trade to the Gold Coast and Gambia.

Such a Company to have those Two Branches of Trade, could it be exclusive of the *Dutch* and *French*, might, indeed, prove of National Advantage; and, as it now stands, they may find it somewhat beneficial to themselves, as they will buy Negroes cheaper in *Africa*, than a great Variety of *British* separate Traders bidding upon one another: But there cannot be any great Difference, as the *Dutch* and *French* will always be ready to buy such Negroes as the *English* refuse, or bid a low Price for; since the *Dutch* are interspersed with the *English* throughout the whole *Gold Coast*, and, in some Parts, within Gun-shot of our Settlements; and the *French* are in the Neighbourhood of *Gambia*, and now trade largely on the *Gold Coast*.—And if such a Company should undertake this Trade without any Publick Aid, whilst the *French* and *Dutch* grant large Bounties, Exemptions from Duties, and other Immunities, to support their *African* Trade; the whole Charge of maintaining the *British* Forts and Settlements would lie, in great measure, on the *American* Plantations: Since such a Charge must be made up by an extraordinary Price upon the Sale of Negroes in

the

the *British* Plantations, as well as to Foreigners ; or these Two Branches of the *African* Trade must be flung up to our Rivals just mentioned.—And, moreover, it is to be observed, that the private Interest of such an exclusive Company will ever be opposite to the Prosperity and Increase of our Colonies. It will be too much such a Company's Interest to keep them thinly supplied with the best Sort of Negroes, as that is the surest Means to preserve and augment their Profit.

And, further, if this Trade is put into the Hands of an opulent Company, whose Stock shall amount to Millions ; then the Profits thereof will be so insignificant to every Individual, as not to be felt : Which may prove a Temptation to those in the Direction, to make the *African* Coast a Receptacle for such as may be altogether unfit for the Trust that may be reposed in them. And, besides, the Competition will be too powerful for the separate Traders ; which may, in Time, weary them out, and so leave the Trade a Monopoly, to the Prejudice of several populous trading Towns, and of the *American* Plantations ; and, consequently, to the Prejudice of the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom.

III.

A well-regulated Company with a Joint-Stock, and a free and open Trade, seems to be the most eligible ; for the following Reasons :—Because it is apprehended that such a Company, with a moderate Joint-Stock, and a sufficient Allowance from the Publick for a certain Term of Years, to support the *British* Honour, Dominion, and Jurisdiction, in *Africa*, and to maintain the Forts and Castles in a defensible and respectable Condition, and to have a constant Supply of Goods at the several Forts and Settlements in *Africa*, partly to be sent from *England* by the Company, and the Remainder to be purchased in *Africa*, of the *British* separate Traders, in Exchange for Negroes, and other *African* Products, or for Bills of Exchange, will be able to afford great Advantages to all separate Traders, as well as to the Planters in *America*, by means of a quick Dispatch from the Coast ; so as to save in Demurrage, and to avoid Distempers in the Negroes usually contracted by means of being too long confined on board the Trading Ships which carry them off, as well after they are purchased by the Planters, as before such Purchase. And such a Company, and their Agents and Factors in *Africa*, may be encouraged, to avoid carrying it with a high Hand, to the Prejudice of the *British* separate Traders ; and to be guarded against a Monopoly by being encouraged to trade with such separate Traders in Negroes, and

C

other

other Merchandise, so that each Party may apply themselves to those Branches of Trade that suit them best.—And for further promoting an Harmony and good Understanding between such a Company and all *British* separate Traders, there may be a * Bounty granted by the Publick to all such separate Traders for every Negro they shall buy of the Company at *Cape Coast Castle* on the *Gold Coast*, and at *James Fort* in the River *Gambia*, to be regularly entered in the Council-books at the said Two Settlements, and then to be carried to the *British* Plantations in *America*, and sold there; such Bounty to be paid upon proper Certificates being produced, in *London*, that such Negroes were bought and sold as aforesaid. And, further, the Company's Agents and Factors in *Africa* may be permitted to charge the Company extraordinary Commissions on all Negroes they shall sell to such separate Traders at the said Two Settlements; and, in general, that the said Company, and their Constituents, give such separate Traders a friendly Reception and Relief at the several Forts and Castles, under proper Penalties on such as shall act otherwise.

There are many trivial Objections to a Joint-Stock Company, founded upon Prejudice and Misinformation: But the Security of the Trade to the *Gold Coast*, *Whyddah*, and *Gambia*, is the main Point to be considered; and, in case the Objections to the before-mentioned open Company and exclusive Company cannot be answered, or provided for, and that neither of those Proposals, nor any other, shall be thought preferable to a Joint-Stock Company, as here proposed; We do, in pursuance of your Lordships Commands, offer the following Plan, or Proposals, for a Subscription.

IV.

But nothing, however, can be done to secure this Trade, until the Incumbrances that now lie on the *African* Company are clear'd off, in order to encourage Adventurers in this Trade: And, when all Circumstances are duly weighed, it is apprehended, that no less than 150,000*l.* can be judged a reasonable Compensation to the Company, and their Creditors: Especially when it is consider'd, that, after the Company were depriv'd of their exclusive Privilege granted by Charter, they have been burdened with the Charge of the Forts and Settlements, whilst the private Traders,

* The French separate Traders take Licences from their *India* or *African* Company, and pay 20 Livres, which is about 9*s.* 2*d.* Sterling per Head for every Negro they carry off the Coast; and the French exempt One Half of their Duties in *France* on Sugar, and all other *American* Products taken in Exchange for Negroes carried to their Plantations from *Africa* (which is from 40*s.* to 3*l.* per Head), besides many other Immunities to encourage their *African* Trade.

and

and the Nation, have been reaping the Advantage; and, particularly, from the Year 1713. to 1730. without any Allowance from the Publick to the Company; and from 1730. to 1746. with only an Allowance of 10,000*l.* per Annum to the Company; and since that Time no Allowance at all. Admitting the Company expended or advanced only 10,000*l.* per Annum, for the Support and Maintenance of the Forts and Castles, from 1713. to 1730. (altho' that is far short of the real Expence); that alone, at 5 per Cent. per Annum, Compound Interest, to this Time, would amount to upwards of 600,000*l.* and the Sum proposed as a Compensation for all their said Expences, and also for the first Cost of their Forts and Castles, purchased and built at a vast Expence, and for their Negroes, and other Property, in *Africa*, is but One Quarter-Part of that Sum, or Five Shillings in the Pound; and flinging all their said Property into the Bargain.

Proposals for a Subscription to secure, improve, and extend, the African Trade; with a moderate Joint-Stock, and proper Encouragements to all British separate Traders.

I. THAT there be, forthwith, a Subscription to raise the Sum of 150,000*l.* for a Trading Stock, to be paid in as shall hereafter be agreed on; and, in case the Inland Trade shall increase, then to raise an Addition to such Capital, in Proportion to such Increase: But special Care to be taken that such a Capital be extended no further than to what may be necessary to carry on the Inland Trade in *Africa* effectually, whereby every Proprietor will feel the Profits that may arise thereupon; which will naturally encourage them to be watchful that the Trade be carried on for the common Good of all Parties interested, according to the Intention of the Legislature.

II. That the said Subscribers, after the *Royal African Company* shall be divested of their Property according to the Resolution of Parliament of the Thirtieth of May last, be adjudg'd and deem'd the same Body Politick as was incorporated by King *Charles II.* and to have proper Powers, and be under such Regulations, as shall answer the Purposes above-mentioned; and also to have the Care of the *British* Forts and Castles in *Africa* for the Benefit of a free and

and open Trade, with all due Encouragements from the Publick to secure the *British* Rights and Trade, and to promote an Harmony and good Understanding between the Company and all *British* separate Traders. And, particularly, that the Publick grant to all *British* separate Traders a Bounty of 20*s.* per Head for every Negro they shall buy of the Company at *Cape Coast Castle*, or at *James Fort* in *Gambia*, to be regularly entered in the Council-Books at the said Two Settlements, and to be carried to the *British* Plantations in *America*, and sold there: Such Bounty to be paid upon proper Certificates being produced in *London*, that such Negroes were bought and sold as aforesaid: And that the Company permit their Agents to charge 3 per Cent. extraordinary Commissions on all such Negroes as they shall sell to *British* separate Traders at the said Two Settlements.

III. That the New Company keep up the Number of Men, Great Guns, Castle-Slaves, and other Necessaries for the Support and Defence of each of the Forts and Settlements in *Africa*, according to some certain Estimate; with a Provision from the Publick for Years: Whereof 18,000*l.* per Annum to answer the *African* Charges, and 2000*l.* per Annum for Salaries, House-Rent, and all other Charges of Management in *England*. And some Provision should be made to rebuild the Fort at *Annamaboe*, and where else our Rivals shall attempt any exclusive Settlements.

IV. That the Whole be under a proper Survey and Inspection, attended with Power to see and enforce the due Execution of the Service intended.

We, the Subscribers, do severally agree to the Proposals above-written; and to fulfil our respective Subscriptions, according to the Sums annexed to our Names.

But if such a Subscription cannot be obtained, or, in case new Adventurers shall not care to engage in a permanent Joint-Stock; the following Proposals are offer'd, for your Lordships Consideration.

I. THAT the present Rights and Property of the *Royal African Company* of *England* be valued at 150,000*l.*—125,000*l.* thereof, more or less, according to what shall appear to be due, to belong

long to their Creditors; and the Remainder to the Proprietors of their Stock: And that the Whole be engrafted into 15,000 Shares, at 10*l.* per Share.

II. That the Publick, in Consideration of the Expences of the said Company in maintaining the Forts and Castles for many Years without any Allowance at all, grant to the said Company 150,000*l.* for a Trading Stock; and no Dividends to be made, upon any Account whatsoever, but from the Profits of the Trade.

III. That there be the same Provision from the Publick to secure the *British* Rights and Trade in *Africa*, and to promote an Harmony and good Understanding between the said Old Company and all *British* separate Traders, and the same Survey and Inspection as are propos'd in the foregoing Proposals for a Subscription by a New Company.

All which is most humbly submitted.

African House,

Oct. 12.
1749.

By Order of the Court of Assistants,

Sign'd R^D SPENCE, Secretary.

N^o. II.

No. II.

Copy of a Memorial of the Royal African Company, to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations; With an Estimate of the Charges of a Military Force for Supporting their Forts and Settlements in Africa,

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations,

The Memorial of the Royal African Company of England.

Sheweth,

THAT a new Sub and Deputy-Governor, and most of the Court of Assistants, who were never in the Direction of this Company before, having been elected on the Fifth instant, they immediately order'd a General Court to be called this Day; and, in pursuance of the Letter with which your Lordships were pleased to honour them, the Favour whereof they acknowleg'd with much Gratitude, do, with all Submission, presume to lay the following Thoughts before your Lordships, as the more effectual means to retrieve, extend, and preserve the Commerce of the British Nation to *Africa*.

To enter, on the one hand, into a Detail of the Consequence of the Trade to *Africa*, endeavour to make it appear the Support of the Sugar-Colonies, and demonstrate how nearly *North America* is connected with, and depends upon, the Prosperity of those Colonies; or, on the other, to shew the vast Improvements made by *France* in their *African* Trade, and consequently the great Increase of their Sugar-Colonies, the Encroachments that Nation are daily making upon the Coast of *Africa*, having already excluded us from the Gum-Coast, and the Endeavours

they

they are using to interfere with us on the Gold-Coast at *Whydah* and *Gambia*, where if they once are permitted to get a Footing, and fortify themselves, they will soon prevent the Traffick of His Majesty's Subjects; would, in our humble Opinion, be taking up too much Time in explaining what must be so well known to your Lordships: And therefore, taking the above for granted, we shall proceed humbly to offer what we think the most proper Means to retrieve, extend, and preserve the Trade of the British Subjects to *Africa*, and render the same more beneficial to the Colonies, and separate Traders.

I. We presume that this can never be accomplish'd, but by maintaining the Company's Forts and Settlements upon the Coast in a proper and respectable State of Defence.

This is very evident from the many Resolutions of the Honourable House of Commons, shewing the Necessity of supporting the Forts and Castles of the Company, which have cost a Million at least; as it is by the Strength of them alone that this Nation can maintain their Weight and Dignity upon that Coast, or be able to prevent the Encroachments of the *French* and other Nations, notwithstanding it has been reported by some, that they were of no Utility. But this could not proceed from Sentiments confined to a present momentary Advantage, without any Regard to the Honour of the Nation, the public Welfare, or the securing this Trade to Posterity.

II. That as this cannot be done effectually, without a sufficient Aid of Parliament, we conceive, that whatever Sum they are pleased to give, will be more usefully applied by an incorporated Body of Men, with a Joint-Stock. For, supposing the Directors of such a Company to be Men of Candour and Property, and such whose Interest it is to support the Trade to *Africa*, with a View in particular to the Welfare of the Colonies, as well as the inland Trade, they must appear more adapted for this Trust than any Committee of separate Traders, whose immediate Profits may reasonably be supposed to be their principal Object; and who cannot be made answerable to the Public (being so subject to change, and give up their Trust) as an incorporated Body of Men, who act upon more extensive and beneficial Principles for the Public: And we beg Leave to say, that, if such a Body of Men had not been enabled by their Charter to build Forts and Caffles upon the Coast of *Africa*, we should probably at this time be obliged to apply to our

Rivals

Rivals for Negroes, or perhaps to take our Sugars from them; as we have for many Years past, and still do, Indigo.

III. That, as the proposed Joint-Stock Company are not to enjoy the Benefit of an exclusive Charter, we think it will be very easily made appear, that they can be rendered extremely useful to separate Traders, in their Slaving upon the Coast.

The Company, having Factors continually residing there, will be able not only to purchase Slaves, and sell them to Traders at a much cheaper Rate than is usually done by Captains of Ships, but dispatch them in a quarter Part of the Time they are commonly obliged to lay down upon the Coast; which will enable them to carry a greater Number, and healthier Slaves to our Colonies, and to sell them cheaper, with a more certain Profit to themselves: For which Slaves the Company will take the Cargoes carried abroad, in Payment; and, by keeping Journals open to the Inspection of all Captains, of the prime Cost of their Negroes, it may be mutually agreed between the separate Traders and the Company, how much *per Cent.* is to be allowed for Profits on such Barters.

IV. To prevent the Company from being obliged to keep too great a Number of Slaves provided for the separate Traders upon hand, we presume they ought to have Liberty of sending a certain Number annually to our Colonies, after having kept them at least Thirty Days, without an Opportunity of Sale.

This may meet with great Opposition from many of the separate Traders; but we esteem it the only means to establish a good Understanding between them and the Company, and of providing the Colonies with proper and cheap Negroes; as, without it, the separate Traders would have a Monopoly, dangerous in its Consequences to the Colonies, and the Company be undone by the separate Traders refusing to purchase their Slaves for some time, or be obliged to sell them at great Loss: All which this Liberty may be a means of preventing.

V. We propose, that the Transactions of this Joint Stock Company shall be subject to such annual Parliamentary Inquiry, Penalties, and Regulations, in regard of the Application of the Money given by Parliament, as to the Legislature shall seem fit; that the good Ends proposed may be fully answered, and the *British* Negro and Inland Trade on the Coast of Africa be retrieved,

retrieved, extended, and preserved to all His Majesty's Subjects, separate Traders, as well as to the Company.

To recapitulate the many Expences incurred, and Losses sustained, by the *Royal African Company*, in purchasing, building, and maintaining their Forts and Settlements, or examine into the Causes which have reduced them to their present low Situation, while the separate Traders have been raising great Fortunes upon their Ruins ; though it might be an Apology for the Loss of their original Capital, yet it might be made use of as an Argument against their Management ; but at the same time it would plainly demonstrate, that, under proper Direction, Prudence, and Oeconomy, a Company may carry on this Commerce, if enabled to support their Forts and Castles by Aid from Parliament ; at least with equal or superior Advantage to any separate Traders, in point of purchasing Slaves upon the Coast, and with far greater Opportunities of extending the Inland Trade of *Africa* in Elephants Teeth, Gum, Dye-woods, Drugs, Bees-wax, Gold, &c. which is known to be very considerable.

It is upon these Considerations, my Lords, that we have resolved upon a Change of Measures in the future Management of our Affairs ; and having maturely weigh'd, on the one hand, all the Disadvantages we labour under, with a Load of about One hundred and Thirty thousand Pounds Debt, the ruinous Condition of our Forts and Castles, the lost Credit and Reputation of the Company ; and impartially considered, on the other hand, that, as the just Demands upon the Company ought to be discharged, their Forts and Castles by some Body of Men, or Joint-Stock Company, supported, and proper means used to re-establish the Credit of the Company ; notwithstanding all the Difficulties we have to encounter with, we flatter ourselves, by a sufficient Parliamentary Aid, and a proper Direction and Oeconomy, the *Royal African Company* may yet be saved, and brought back to a flourishing Situation, to the great Benefit of separate Traders, and the Colonies. We would not be too sanguine in our Promises; but the most hearty and disinterested Endeavours shall not be wanting.

It is humbly conceived, that an annual Allowance, according to the annexed Estimate for the Term of Thirty-two Years, and no less, with the greatest Oeconomy, will be necessary to enable the present *Royal African Company* to restore their Forts and Settlements on the Coast, and support them in a proper and respectable State of Defence, and raise a sufficient Joint-Stock to carry on a very beneficial Inland Trade, and keep a continual

nual Supply of the best Negroes for separate Traders. At the same time it will be requisite, that the Parliament should enable the Company to agree with their Creditors, by passing a Bill to make effectual such Agreement as shall be signed and consented to by Two Thirds of their Creditors in Number and Value, by a Time to be limited; and in the mean time all Prosecutions against the Company to be stayed.

If, upon granting the above Parliamentary Aid, the Credit of the Company should be so far recover'd, as to induce Gentlemen to subscribe a Joint-Stock, and depend upon the Profits of their Trade for their Dividends, they will then submit to whatever Regulations or Penalties shall be thought proper by Parliament, for the faithful Application of the whole Sum they receive to re-establish and support their Forts and Settlements.

Should the Company's present Situation make Men of Fortune diffident, and unwilling to subscribe the Sum requisite for carrying on their Trade, we must then most humbly implore the Permission of Parliament to deposite the annual Sum of 3000 £. of the above Aid, in the Bank of *England*, as a Security upon which a trading Stock may be raised, that they may not be put under a Necessity of giving exorbitant Interest, or obliged to accept of a Subscription upon too disadvantageous Terms; the Company, in that Case, obliging themselves to apply such annual Sum of Three thousand Pounds in *Africa* (out of the Profits of their Trade) as directed by Parliament, for the Support of their said Forts and Settlements, in lieu of the said annual Sum of Three thousand Pounds so to be deposited.

These, my Lords, are the obvious Reasons which occur to us:

1. For the Necessity of supporting our Forts and Settlements.
2. For the Grant of sufficient Parliamentary Aid for Thirty-two Years; and entrusting the Application of the same rather to a Joint-Stock Company, than any Set of private Men.
3. To shew the means by which such a Joint-Stock Company, under proper Regulations, may be made very useful to separate Traders, and the Colonies.

[[19]]

4. To point out a Method, by which the Company will not be subject to the Distresses they might otherwise be laid under, by the separate Traders declining to purchase Slaves of them.

5. The Intentions of the Company to lay themselves under such Restrictions in the Application of the Money granted, as to make it answer the good End for which it is intended.

We make no Doubt they will have their proper Weight with your Lordships, as we impartially offer the foregoing Plan for the easiest, most certain, effectual, and lasting Method of retrieving, extending, and preserving the Trade to *Africa*, and supporting the Dignity and Weight of the *British* Nation upon that Coast.

We therefore humbly desire your Lordships would be pleased to accept of this as the present Sense of this General Court.

We shall conclude, with acquainting your Lordships, that, as we cannot help thinking this our Memorial consistent with the Views of the *British* Planters, we shall readily concur in such Measures as may convince them, that this our Plan is calculated not only particularly, for their Encouragement, but also consequently, for the Encouragement, and general Benefit, of the *British* Nation.

All which is most humbly submitted.

L. S.

By Order of a General Court of
the Royal African Company
of England; Signed,

Rd. Spence, Secretary.

African House, Jan. 11.

1749.

An

African-House, Jan. 11. 1749.

*An ESTIMATE of the Charges of a Military Force proper
to be established for maintaining and supporting the respective
Forts and Settlements belonging to the Royal African Com-
pany of England on the Coast of Africa.*

I. James Fort in the River Gambia. 36 Guns.

	Per Diem.	Per Ann.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1 Captain	—	£. 0 10 0	182	10	0			
1 Lieutenant	—	0 5 0	91	5	0			
1 Ensign	—	0 4 0	73	0	0			
1 Secretary	—	0 5 0	91	5	0			
1 Storekeeper	—	0 3 0	54	15	0			
1 Serjeant	—	0 2 6	45	12	6			
2 Corporals	—	0 2 0	73	0	0			
1 Drummer	—	0 2 0	36	10	0			
30 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	273	15	0			
1 Surgeon	—	0 6 0	109	10	0			
1 Surgeon's Mate	—	0 4 0	73	0	0			
60 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	0 6 0	547	10	0			
Recruiting 60 Blacks, at 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 l. per Man	—	—	90	0	0			
Medicines and Surgeons Instruments	—	—	50	0	0			
Provisions for 30 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Day per Man	—	—	547	10	0			
Officers and Men under the Head of Ord- nance Service.						2339	2	6
1 Engineer and Surveyor	—	0 6 0	109	10	0			
1 Master-Gunner	—	0 4 0	73	0	0			
2 Gunner's Mates	—	0 2 0	73	0	0			
10 Artificers, Smiths, Carpenters, Masons, Bricklayers, Armour- ers, Sawyers	—	0 3 0	547	10	0			
For recruiting 55 White Men for this Ri- ver with 10 Men per Ann. including the Charges of their Passage	—	—	150	0	0			
For Charges of a Sloop, and other small Craft, to attend the Service of the Fort	—	—	400	0	0			
For Timber, Stone, Lime, and other Ma- terials, for Repairs to be provided in the Country	—	—	250	0	0			
For Ammunition, such as Gun-Carriages, Cannon-bullets, Gunpowder, Small-arms, and all other Military Stores; also for Materials for Repairs, such as Boards, Iron, Ironwork, Bricks, Tarras, Lead, &c. also for Tools and Stores of all Kinds for Smiths, Carpenters, Masons, Armourers, Bricklayers, and Labourers.	—	—	300	0	0			
Carried over	—	—	—	—	—	1100	0	0
						4242	2	6

[21]

Brought over

<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
4242	2	6

II. Annamaboe Fort. S.

Being a Place of great Trade, where the French are attempting to settle.

		<i>Per Diem.</i>	<i>Per Ann.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1 Lieutenant	—	£. 0 5 0	91 5 0			
1 Serjeant	—	0 2 6	45 12 6			
1 Corporal	—	0 2 0	36 10 0			
1 Drummer	—	0 2 0	36 10 0			
12 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	109 10 0			
1 Surgeon's Mate	—	0 4 0	73 0 0			
24 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	0 0 6	219 0 0			
Recruiting 24 Blacks, at 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 L. per Man	—	36 0 0				
Medicines, and Surgeons Instruments	—	20 0 0				
Provisions for 12 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	219 0 0				
Officers and Men, under the Head of Ord- nance-Service.			886 7 6			
1 Gunner	—	0 3 0	54 15 0			
1 Mate	—	0 2 0	36 10 0			
4 Artificers, viz. a Smith, a Car- penter, a Mason, and an Armourer	—	0 3 0	219 0 0			
			310 7 5 0			
			1106 12 6			

And whereas the Fort of *Annamaboe* above-mentioned is not in a Condition to receive a Garrison, the Amount of this Estimate for that Fort is intended to be applied towards repairing the same.

III. Tantumquerry Fort. 13 Guns.

Being situated between Two Dutch Forts at Cormantine and Appong.

		<i>Per Diem.</i>	<i>Per Ann.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1 Serjeant	—	—	£. 0 2 6	45	12	6
1 Drummer	—	—	0 2 0	36	10	0
8 Soldiers	—	—	0 0 6	73	0	0
20 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	—	0 0 6	182	10	0
Recruiting 20 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 <i>l.</i> per Man	—	—	—	30	0	0
Provisions for 8 Soldiers, at 12 <i>d.</i> per Man per Day	—	—	—	146	0	0
<i>Officers and Men under the Head of Ordnance-Service.</i>				—	513	12 6
1 Gunner's Mate	—	—	0 2 0	36	10	0
2 Artificers, viz. a Smith, and a Carpenter	—	—	0 3 0	109	10	0
<i>Carried over</i>				—	146	0 0
				—	659	12 6
				—	6098	7 6

E

[22]

Brought over

l. s. d.
6098 17

IV. Winnebah Fort. 16 Guns.

Lying between the Dutch Forts at Appong and Barracee.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Serjeant	—	0 2 6	45 12 6	
1 Corporal	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
1 Drummer	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
10 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	91 5 0	
1 Surgeon's Mate	—	0 4 0	73 0 0	
20 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	0 0 6	182 10 0	
Recruiting 20 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 l. per Man	—	30 0 0		
Medicines, and Surgeons Instruments	—	20 0 0		
Provisions for 10 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	182 10 0		
Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance Service.				697 17 6
1 Gunner's Mate	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
3 Artificers, viz. a Carpenter, a Brick- layer, and an Armourer	—	0 3 0	164 5 0	
				200 15 0
				898 12 6

V. Accra Fort.

36 Guns.

Situated within Gun-shot of a Dutch Fort, and near a Danish Fort

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Lieutenant	—	0 5 0	91 5 0	
1 Serjeant	—	0 2 6	45 12 6	
1 Corporal	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
1 Drummer	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
16 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	146 0 0	
1 Surgeon's Mate	—	0 4 0	73 0 0	
20 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	0 0 6	273 15 0	
Recruiting 30 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 l. per Head	—	45 0 0		
Medicines, and Surgeons Instruments	—	20 0 0		
Provisions for 16 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	292 9 0		
Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance Service.				1059 12 6
1 Gunner	—	0 3 0	54 15 0	
1 Gunner's Mate	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
4 Artificers, viz. a Smith, a Carpenter, a Mason, a Bricklayer, and an Ar- mourer	—	0 3 0	219 0 0	
				310 5 0
Carried over	—			1369 17 6
				8366 17 6

[23]

Brought over

l. s. d.
8366 17 6

VI. Whydah Fort. 35 Guns.

Situated near one Portuguese, and one French Fort.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Lieutenant	—	—	0 5 0	91 5 0
1 Serjeant	—	—	0 2 6	45 12 6
1 Corporal	—	—	0 2 0	36 10 0
1 Drummer	—	—	0 2 0	36 10 0
16 Soldiers	—	—	0 0 6	146 0 0
1 Surgeon's Mate	—	—	0 4 0	73 0 0
30 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	—	0 0 6	273 15 0
Recruiting 30 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann.	—	—	—	45 0 0
and 15 l. per Head	—	—	—	—
Medicines, and Surgeons Instruments	—	—	—	20 0 0
Provisions for 16 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	—	—	292 0 0
				1059 12 6

Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance-
Service.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Gunner	—	—	0 3 0	54 15 0
1 Gunner's Mate	—	—	0 2 0	36 10 0
4 Artificers, viz. a Smith, a Car- penter, a Mason or Bricklayer, and an Armourer	—	—	0 3 0	219 0 0
				310 5 0
				1369 17 6

VII. Commenda Fort. 31 Guns.

Being within Musket-shot of a Dutch Fort.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Lieutenant	—	—	0 5 0	91 5 0
1 Serjeant	—	—	0 2 6	45 12 6
1 Corporal	—	—	0 2 0	36 10 0
1 Drummer	—	—	0 2 0	36 10 0
12 Soldiers	—	—	0 0 6	109 10 0
20 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	—	0 0 6	182 10 0
Recruiting 20 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann.	—	—	—	30 0 0
at 15 l. per Man	—	—	—	—
Medicines	—	—	—	10 0 0
Provisions for 12 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	—	—	219 0 0
				760 17 6

Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance-
Service.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Gunner	—	—	0 3 0	54 15 0
1 Mate	—	—	0 2 0	36 10 0
4 Artificers, viz. a Smith, a Car- penter, a Mason, and an Ar- mourer	—	—	0 3 0	219 0 0
				310 6 0
				1071 2 6

Carried over

10807 17 6

[24]

Brought over — — — — — l. s. d.
10807 17 6

VIII. Succondee Fort. 29 Guns.

Being within Gun-shot of a Dutch Fort.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Serjeant	—	0 2 6	45 12 6	
1 Corporal	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
1 Drummer	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
10 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	91 5 0	
1 Surgeon's Mate	—	0 4 0	73 0 0	
20 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	0 0 6	182 10 0	
Recruiting 20 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 l. per Man	—	—	30 0 0	
Medicines, and Surgeons Instruments	—	—	20 0 0	
Provisions for 10 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	—	182 10 0	
			697 17 6	

Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance-Service.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Gunner	—	0 3 0	54 15 0	
1 Mate	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
4 Artificers, viz. a Smith, a Carpenter, a Mason, and an Armourer	—	0 3 0	219 0 0	
			310 5 0	
			1008 2 6	

IX. Dixcove Fort. 30 Guns.

Being the principal Place on the Gold Coast, for furnishing Timber and Lime for Repairs, Wood and Water, and Provisions for Negroes on Board Slave Ships.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Serjeant	—	0 2 6	45 12 6	
1 Corporal	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
1 Drummer	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
12 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	109 10 0	
30 Black Soldiers, including Black Sawyers, Artificers, and Labourers	—	0 0 6	273 15 0	
Recruiting 30 Blacks, 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 l. per Man	—	—	45 0 0	
Medicines	—	—	10 0 0	
Provisions for 12 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Man per Day	—	—	219 0 0	
			775 17 6	

Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance-Service.

		per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
1 Gunner	—	0 3 0	54 15 0	
1 Mate	—	0 2 0	36 10 0	
8 Artificers, viz. a Smith, a Carpenter, a Mason, an Armourer, and 4 Sawyers	—	0 3 0	438 0 0	
			529 5 0	
Carried over	—	—	—	1305 2 6
				13121 2 6

	l. s. d.
Brought over	13121 2 6

X. For Cape Coast Castle	- - -	40 Guns.
XI. Fort Royal	- - -	12 Guns.
XII. Phipps's Tower	} outwards	5 Guns.
XIII. Queen Anne's Point	}	5 Guns.

	per Diem.	per Ann.	l. s. d.
I Captain	—	0 10 0	182 10 0
I Lieutenant	—	0 5 0	91 5 0
I Ensign	—	0 4 0	73 0 0
I Secretary	—	0 5 0	91 5 0
I Commissary of Stores and Provisions	—	0 3 0	54 15 0
3 Serjeants	—	0 2 6	136 17 6
3 Corporals	—	0 2 0	109 10 0
2 Drummers	—	0 2 0	73 0 0
50 Soldiers	—	0 0 6	456 5 0
I Chief Surgeon	—	0 6 0	109 0 0
I Surgeon's Mate	—	0 4 0	73 0 0
150 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	}	0 0 6	1368 15 0
Recruiting 150 Blacks, at 1 Man in 10 per Ann. and 15 l. per Man	—	—	225 0 0
Medicines, and Surgeons Instruments	—	—	90 0 0
Provisions for 50 Soldiers, at 12 d. per Day per Man	—	—	712 10 0
			<hr/> 3847 2 6

Officers and Men, under the Head of Ordnance-Service.

I Engineer and Surveyor	—	0 7 6	136 17 6
I Deputy Surveyor	—	0 4 0	73 0 0
I Master Gunner	—	0 4 0	73 0 0
2 Gunners Mates	—	0 2 0	73 0 0
16 Artificers, viz. Smiths, Carpenters, Masons, Bricklayers, Sawyers, Armourers	}	0 3 0	876 0 0
For Recruiting 261 White Men for Cape Coast Castle, and the other 8 Forts on the Gold Coast and at Wbydab, 50 Men per Ann. including the Charge of their Passage	—	—	1231 17 6
For Charges of Sloops and other small Craft, such as Boats and Canoes, to attend the Service of the several Forts on the Gold Coast, and at Wbydab	—	—	800 0 0
Ground Rents	—	—	450 0 0
For Ammunition, such as Guns, Carriages, Cannon Bullets, Gunpowder, Small Arms, and all other Military Stores; also for Materials for Repairs, such as Boards, Iron, Iron Work, Bricks, Tarras, Lead, &c. Also for Tools and Stores of all Kinds, for Smiths, Carpenters, Masons, Armourers, Bricklayers, and Labourers	—	—	700 0 0
			<hr/> 2700 0 0
Total Annual Charge in Sterling Money	—	—	20900 2 6
			African-

African-House, Jan. 11. 1749.

An ABSTRACT of the Number of People proposed to keep up the Estimate made by the Royal African Company ; with an Account of their Pay per Diem.

} Pay per Diem Sterling.

s. d.	James Fort at Gambia.	Cape Coast, &c.	Dixcove.	Sucondee.	Commenda.	Annamaboe.	Tantumquerry.	Winnebah.	James Fort at Aura.	William's Fort at Whydah	Total.
5 0 Secretaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
6 0 } Engineer and Surveyor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
7 6 } Deputy Surveyor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10 0 Captains	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
5 0 Lieutenants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
4 0 Ensigns	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
6 0 Surgeons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
4 0 Surgeons Mates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
2 6 Serjeants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
2 0 Corporals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
4 0 } Gunners	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
3 0 } Gunners Mates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
3 0 Artificers, such as Carpenters, Sawyers, Coopers, Blacksmiths, Masons, Bricklayers, and Armourers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
3 0 Commissary of Stores and Provisions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
2 0 Drummers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
0 6 Soldiers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	176
0 6 Black Soldiers, including Black Artificers and Labourers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	316
	54	86	25	20	22	23	13	18	27	27	316
	60	150	30	20	20	24	20	20	30	30	404
	114	236	55	40	42	47	33	38	57	57	720

N. B. Nothing is charged in the Estimate for any Military Officer beyond the Degree of a Captain ; nor the Governors, Accountants, Factors, or Writers, who occasionally supply the Places of Military Officers : Nor for any Salaries, House-Rent, or any other Charges of Management in England. Nor is any thing charged for the Company's Settlement at Prampram.

The

*The particular Amount of the Estimate at each Settlement,
including all Charges:*

		l.	s.	d.
Cape-Coast-Castle	—	7779	0	0
Annamaboe	—	1196	12	6
Tantumquerry	—	659	12	6
Winnebah	—	898	12	6
Accra	—	1369	17	6
Whydah	—	1369	17	6
Commenda	—	1071	2	6
Succondee	—	1008	2	6
Dixcove	—	1305	12	6
Prampram	—	0000	0	0
James Fort, Gambia	—	4242	12	6
Sterling	—	£. 20,900	2	6

No. III.

Copy of a Plan from several Merchants of *London*, to the Commissioners for *Trade and Plantations*, for the better regulating and carrying on the Trade to *Africa*.

THE Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations having called upon the Merchants and Traders of the City of *London*, as well as those residing at *Bristol* and *Liverpool*, to prepare and give in to their Lordships their several Plans, in order to form such a Scheme as their Lordships may judge most proper to be laid before the Parliament, for the better regulating and carrying on the Trade on the Coast of *Africa*; and as the Merchants of *London* are thoroughly satisfied, the Legislature will be always ready and desirous to give all possible Encouragement to Commerce in general, and particularly to those Branches of it which take off most of the *British* Manufactures, and at the same time furnish this Nation, in Return, with useful Commodities, no-ways interfering with our own; such as Gold, Ivory, Gum, Beeswax, Dye-woods, &c. from *Africa*; and Sugar, Tobacco, Rice, Indico, Cotton, Ginger, and other valuable Traffick, from the *British* Colonies, besides finding Employment for a great Number of Ships and Seamen:

And as these latter Productions depend absolutely on the *African* Trade for a Supply of Labourers; and if that Trade should be lost, or longer neglected, all the rest must fall; or, in proportion to such Neglect, dwindle with it; so the Merchants of *London* have the fullest Confidence, that the Parliament will effectually interpose their Authority and Assistance, for the Revival of this once valuable, but now declining Trade; more particularly on the *Gold-Coast* and *Whydah*, where not only the most useful Slaves for the Plantations are to be had, but where more Woolens of *British* Manufacture are vended, than on all the rest of the Coast put together.

And

And the underwritten Merchants of the City of *London*, having deliberately consider'd the State and Condition of the said Trade in all its Branches and Circumstances, do beg Leave to offer to their Lordships what follows, as the most eligible Plan and Means; whereby the same may, and, in their Opinion, can be recovered, preserved, and properly extended.

I. They recommend it, as essentially necessary, that the present Number of Forts and Castles at *Gambia*, on the *Gold-Coast*, and at *Whydah*, should be kept up and supported (besides building a Fort at *Annamaboe*, and another in the River *Sierra-Lion*) not as Marks of Possession only, but in such defensible State and Condition as will procure at least an equal, if not a superior Degree of Power with those in the Hands of the *British* Rivals in that Trade on the same Coast, as it will not only encourage the Natives to give the *British* Subjects a Preference in Trade, but they will be sure to be protected in their Inland Commerce thereby; and it will at the same time command from them all that proper Deference and Respect heretofore shewn to the *English* Residents there, when the said Strong-Holds were kept in a defensible State. And in this first and principal Step, the Honour of the *British* Nation, as well as the Interest of it, is immediately and deeply concerned.

II. It is recommended, as equally necessary, that the said Forts and Castles be from time to time supplied with a sufficient Quantity of well-assorted Goods; so that when the Inland Traders shall have travelled One, Two, or Three hundred Miles down from the Country, they may be sure of a Mart for their Slaves, and other Commodities, meet with a civil Encouragement, and not return without the Goods they want.

III. The underwritten Merchants give it as their Opinion, that this Trade may be very well secured, improved, and extended, by a Joint-Stock Company, with an extensive Capital, to be restricted in the manner herein after-mentioned, or in such other like manner as the Legislature shall think fit. And should their Lordships be of the same Opinion, that this is the safest and most eligible Scheme this Trade can be settled upon, the Merchants of *London* are convinced,

IV. That, by the Encouragement of Twenty thousand Pounds *per Annum* from Parliament, to enable them to erect, maintain, and support their Fortifications;

V. And by his Majesty's ordering Two Men of War to be always stationed on the Coast of *Africa* for the Protection of that Trade, it is supposed, that Merchants, and other moneyed Men of Credit and Reputation may be found, who will raise such a Capital, as shall not only be deemed a sufficient Pledge and Security to the Publick, that the said Forts and Castles shall always be supported and kept up in a proper and respectable Condition, but also in such-like manner as shall be found necessary for the extending and improving the said Trade to the utmost, and more especially to the rich and populous Inland Parts of *Africa*, which never can be attempted with any Prospect of Success upon any other Foot.

The Restraints the Merchants propose are these:

I. That all His Majesty's Subjects shall have free Liberty of Trading upon the whole Coast of *Africa*, and at the Company's Forts and Castles; and shall be assisted and supplied by the Agents of the said Company at the said Forts and Castles, whenever applied to by them.

II. That the new Joint-Company be restrained from Trading to the *British* Plantations on their own Account.

III. That the Governors, Directors, and their Servants or Agents at home, be restrained also from Trading on the Coast of *Africa* in their private Capacity.

IV. That the Company be not permitted to sell any Slaves to Foreigners, unless it be in Exchange for Gold, or *Brazil* Tobacco. But the Company may ship directly or otherwise to *Great Britain* all their Gold, Elephants Teeth, Wood, Wax, &c.

V. That the Traders also in the Merchants Ships be in like manner debarred from selling any Slaves upon the Coast to Foreigners, but for Gold, and *Brazil* Tobacco.

VI. That the Company be restrained from making any Contracts here for the Sale of Negroes on the Coast.

VII. That the Company's Agents be tied up from giving any undue Preference to any Ships upon the Coast, and be obliged to use their Endeavours, that the Ship that arrives first be first dispatched.

VIII. That the Company lay annually before Parliament an exact Account of all Sums they have expended, to support these Fortifications, Agents and Servants upon the Coast, separately and distinct from what they have sent out on account of Trade.

IX. That the Commanders of the Men of War stationed on the Coast of *Africa* for the Protection of the Trade, be required to transmit, once in Six Months, to the Lords of the Admiralty, a full Account of the State and Condition of the Company's Forts and Settlements.

All which we the Subscribers humbly submit to their Lordships Consideration.

*Thomas Truman
Rowland Frye
Samuel Turner
James Johnson
Roger Drake
Beeston Long
George Keith
Richard Maitland.*

N^o. IV.

Copy of a Scheme from several *African*
Merchants and Traders of the City
of *London* to the Commissioners for
Trade and Plantations, for securing,
improving, and extending the Trade
to *Africa*.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for
Trade and Plantations.

WE the underwritten *African* Merchants and Traders of
the City of *London*, having been informed, that it is your
Lordships Pleasure we should prepare a Scheme for the securing,
improving, and extending the Trade to *Africa*, and more espe-
cially that Part thereof on the *Gold Coast*, do most humbly beg
Leave to lay before your Lordships the following Particulars ;
which, as they are calculated upon a Plan conformable to the Pur-
port of the Bill passed the Honourable House of Commons the last
Sessions, we hope they may deserve your Lordships Approbation :
For it is very apparent the Endeavours of that Honourable House
were, as our Intention is now, to establish the whole *African*
Trade upon Principles most conducive to the general Advantage
of our Commerce, the Benefit of our Navigation, and the In-
crease of his Majesty's Revenue.

We therefore humbly propose as our Opinion ;

I. That all his Majesty's Subjects shall have full and free Li-
berty of trading to, on, and from, the several Parts of the
Coast of *Africa*.

II. That it is absolutely necessary, that Forts and Gar-
isons on the Coast of *Africa* should be kept up and maintained,
not only as Marks of Sovereignty and Possession, but likewise
to prevent all Encroachments on our Trade from any Rival
whatever.

III.

III. That, in order to support the Forts and Garrisons, an annual Sum be granted by Parliament for that Purpose; and that an open Company be established, of which every *British Subject* trading, or intending to trade, to *Africa*, shall or may become free on Payment of Forty Shillings; which shall be applied towards the current Expences of the said Company.

IV. That the said Company shall be a Body Corporate and Politick; but shall have no Joint-Stock, or Power of Trading as a Corporation.

V. That out of the said Company shall be chosen a Committee. We submit to your Lordships better Judgment the Proportions proper to be allotted to *London*, *Bristol*, and *Leverpool*, to compose this Committee; but humbly propose, that out of the said Company a Committee of Nine Persons residing in *London* may be chosen; Three of which by the Merchants of *London*, Three by the Merchants of *Bristol*, and Three by the Merchants of *Leverpool*.

VI. That the said Committee be chosen annually; and, at every such Election, Choice be made of Three new Members, Freemen of the said Company, One for each of said trading Places, in lieu of the like Number of the old ones, who are to be discharged, by balloting, to prevent Partiality, &c. It is also humbly proposed, that not any one of the said Nine Committee-men shall be chosen or impowered to act for more than Three Years successively.

VII. That the Money granted by Parliament for the annual Support and Maintenance of the Forts and Garrisons shall be disposed of for that Purpose by the said Committee only; and that the said Committee shall annually lay before the Cursitor-Baron of the Exchequer, or such other Person or Persons as the Parliament shall be pleased to appoint, a State of their Fortifications, and an Account of the Application of the publick Money; and the said Committee so accounting, upon Oath, shall be discharged from all future Claims and Inquiries whatsoever.

VIII. That, out of the said Money granted by Parliament, an Allowance be made to each Member of the said Committee of *per Annum* for their Trouble, Expences, and Attendance on the Affairs of the Company.

IX. That the said Committee shall have Power, from time to time, to make Rules and Orders, and to appoint Governors, and other Officers, for the better Management of the said Forts and Garisons; and to displace and remove them, as they shall think proper.

X. That the Forts, &c. shall be made use of for the Protection of all his Majesty's Subjects, and their Trade; but not as Repositories for Goods and Merchandizes in general, except in Cases of Need and Emergency: But that it shall be lawful for any of his Majesty's Subjects (first having Licence from the said Committee) to erect Dwelling-houses and Warehouses under the Protection of any of the said Forts, or in any Part of Africa, for the Conveniency of carrying on their Trade there.

XI. That it having been found by long Experience, that the greatest Security we can have for our African Trade in general, either against intruding Rivals, or Insults from Pirates, is by a Succession of his Majesty's Ships of War cruising along the Coast: Therefore it is hoped his Majesty will be pleased to order such Cruisers, from time to time, as shall be deemed necessary for this Service.

<u>Robert Rott,</u>	<u>Lyonel Lyde,</u>
<u>Augustus Boyd,</u>	<u>Richard Oswald,</u>
<u>Robert Scott,</u>	<u>John Mill,</u>
<u>John Buchanan,</u>	<u>Samuel Dicken,</u>
<u>Wm. Innes,</u>	<u>Fa. Ord,</u>
<u>George Prescott,</u>	<u>James Woodcock,</u>
<u>Nathaniel Lloyd,</u>	<u>Edward Bochin,</u>
<u>Charles Pole,</u>	<u>Samuel Clarke,</u>
<u>Samuel Touchet,</u>	<u>Nathaniel Basnett,</u>
<u>William Snell,</u>	<u>Marm. Hilton,</u>
<u>Stephen Winthrop,</u>	<u>Benjat Lehook,</u>
<u>Charles Le Blon,</u>	<u>Nathan Sprigg,</u>
<u>Richard Oliver,</u>	<u>Ab James Hillhouse,</u>
<u>Thomas Martin,</u>	<u>William Vaughan,</u>
<utho. bedhead,<="" u=""></utho.>	<u>Barrington Buggin.</u>
<u>John Hillhouse,</u>	

No. V.

Copy of a Scheme, from the Merchants of *Bristol*, to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for securing, improving, and extending the Trade to *Africa*.

My Lords,

In pursuance to your Lordships Directions, which I received from Mr. Hill, I summoned our Merchants together, out of whom we selected a Committee, and have considered the several Matters recommended to us: And herewith I transmit to your Lordships a Scheme, which we apprehend most beneficial for the Publick; and also our Observations on the Bill, which passed the House of Commons the last Sessions.

We cannot pretend to say, that the Scheme differs in any very material Point from what hath been already proposed: But the Alterations in the Bill, which, with great Submission, we recommend to your Lordships, we humbly presume, if approved of, would more certainly secure the Advantages thereby intended.

It is with the utmost Pleasure, that we perceive your Lordships inclined to hear the Arguments of all such as are concerned in this most valuable Branch of *British* Commerce; and doubt not but you will distinguish between, and prefer the true Interest of every *British* Subject, before the Views of a few designing Monopolizers, whose Schemes are destructive to all, but themselves.

In great Confidence of this so laudable a Design, we rest ourselves fully satisfied of the Event; and beg Leave to return your Lordships our most sincere Thanks, for this Opportunity given us, of laying before your Lordships our Sentiments, which we hope will meet with your Approbation.

I am,

My Lords,

Your Lordships

Most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN FOY.

Merchants Hall, Bristol, Nov. 1. 1749.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

A Scheme

A Scheme for securing, improving, and extending the Trade to Africa, for the Benefit of all his Majesty's Subjects.

I. **T**HAT all his Majesty's Subjects shall have full and free Liberty of trading to and from the Coast of Africa.

II. That in order for the Management and Support of the Forts and Settlements on the Coast, an open Company be established, of which every British Subject trading to Africa shall have a Right to become free, on Payment of Forty Shillings.

III. That the said Company shall be a Body Corporate and Politick, but shall have no Joint-Stock, or any Power to trade as a Corporation.

IV. That the said Company shall be managed by a Committee of Nine Persons, Members thereof; Three of which to be chosen by the Merchants of London, Three by the Merchants of Bristol, and Three by the Merchants of Liverpool, Freemen of the said Company.

V. That a proper annual Sum be granted by Parliament, for the Maintenance and Support of the Forts and Settlements, which shall be disposed of, for that Purpose, by the said Committee only.

VI. That out of the said Money granted by Parliament an Allowance be made to the said Committee for their Trouble, Expences, and Attendance.

VII. That the Committee shall have Power, from time to time, to make Rules and Orders, and to appoint Governors, and other Officers, &c. for the better Management of the said Forts and Settlements; and to displace and remove them as they shall think proper.

VIII. That the Forts, &c. shall be made use of for the Protection of all his Majesty's Subjects, and their Trade, but not as Repositories

Repositories for Goods and Merchandise in general, except in case of Need and Emergency: But that it shall be lawful for any of his Majesty's Subjects to erect Houses and Warehouses, under the Protection of the Forts, or in any other Part of *Africa*, for the Conveniency of carrying on their Trade there.

IX. That the said Committee do annually lay before the Cur-
sitor Baron of the Exchequer, or such other Person or Persons,
as the Parliament shall be pleased to appoint, an Account of the
Application of the publick Money; and of all Orders and Trans-
actions relating to the Forts and Settlements.

The Committee, having thoroughly examined and considered the Bill brought into Parliament, the last Sessions, intituled, *A Bill for extending and improving the Trade to Africa*, do give it as their Opinion, that the general Tendency of the said Bill is calculated to prevent a Monopoly of the said Trade, and the pernicious Consequences of its being carried on by a Joint-Stock; but as they humbly apprehend, that several Clauses therein are not sufficiently explained, and others may give Encouragement to designing Men to pervert the laudable Purposes and Intentions of the Legislature for the publick Advantage, beg Leave to lay before you the following Alterations and Amendments, with Reasons for the same, which if admitted, and approved of, they in this Case, recommend the said Bill, as the most effectual means of supporting the Forts, for the Benefit and Protection of the Trade, and preserving the same free and open to all His Majesty's Subjects.

C L A U S E II.

It is therein Declared, That all his Majesty's Subjects, who shall trade to or from any of the Ports or Places of *Africa*, shall, for ever hereafter, be a Body Corporate and Politick, &c.

O B S E R V A T I O N.

It is our Opinion, that the said Clause should not be construed so far as to prevent any Person or Persons not free of the said Company from trading to and from the Coast of *Africa*; but that such who are not free of the said Company, shall only be exempted from a Right of voting for a Committee-man, to be chosen for the Management of the Forts, and Disposition of the publick Money granted for their Support.

K

R E A S O N S.

R E A S O N S.

Our Reasons for this are, that many Persons residing in *America*, and other Places, could not, with Conveniency, make themselves free of the said Company: And as many others in *Great Britain* would rather chuse to drop their Concerns in this Trade, than be obliged to come into the said Company, we think this Restriction might tend to lessen the Trade, and by that means destroy, in some measure, the Intention of the Bill, which is to lay the same free and open to all his Majesty's Subjects.

C L A U S E IV.

It is herein Enacted, That the Direction and Management of the Affairs of the said Company shall be in and by a Committee of Eight Persons, &c.

O B S E R V A T I O N.

It is our Opinion, that the Committee should consist of Nine Persons.

R E A S O N.

Because this Number will admit of an Equality in the Division of the Committee-men to be chosen for *London*, *Bristol*, and *Leverpool*; which we think necessary to be preserved, in order the better to prevent either Place from having a Superiority in the Management, to the Prejudice of the other.

C L A U S E V.

It is herein Enacted, That Four Persons shall be chosen by the Traders of *London*, Two by the Traders of *Bristol*, and Two by the Traders of *Leverpool*, to constitute the Committee of Eight Persons mentioned in the preceding Clause.

O B S E R V A T I O N.

I. We humbly presume, that as the Trade to *Africa* from *Bristol* and *Leverpool*, respectively, is, and hath been for many Years past, considerably greater than from *London*; therefore the Traders from each of those Places ought to have the Choice of at least an equal Number of Committee-men with the Traders of *London*: And for a Proof of this Fact, as to the Port of *Bristol*, we are ready to produce a List of Ships employed from this Port

to

to the Coast of *Africa*, for many Years past; by which will appear the Reasonableness of this Proposal.

It is also presumed, that those Persons, who have the greatest share in the Trade, and whose Interest most immediately depends on its Preservation, are the most likely to exert themselves in the Care and Support of the Forts.

II. *Bristol* and *Leverpool* are no ways concerned in Trade together; and, upon all Occasions, rival each other on any beneficial Branch: Whereas, on the contrary, each of those Places are in some Degree connected with *London*: From whence may justly be inferred, that no Persons who wish well to a free and open Trade, can desire that one Part should chuse a Majority of the whole Committee; which may be so prejudicial in its Consequences.

III. Besides, it may be farther observed, that as the Committee-men will, in all Likelihood, be resident in *London*, no ill Consequences can be apprehended from ev'n the improbable Supposition of an Union between *Bristol* and *Leverpool* against *London*; for certainly Inhabitants and Merchants of that City, altho' Agents for *Bristol* and *Leverpool*, must be supposed to have at least as great a Regard for the Welfare of their own City, as any other; and will of course oppose any Schemes that may be proposed to its Prejudice.

C L A U S E XVIII.

Wherein it is Enacted, That no Officer, or any other Person, to be employed by the Committee at any of the Forts or Settlements built or to be built in *Africa*, shall, at any time hereafter, in any manner, or on any Pretence, obstruct or hinder any of His Majesty's Subjects in Trading.

O B S E R V A T I O N .

We highly approve of this Clause, so far as above expressed; but, for several Reasons under-mentioned, would recommend that the Remainder thereof should be altered in the following Manner:

And that the Forts, Warehouses, and Buildings, already erected, or which hereafter shall be erected, by the said Company, shall and may, at all times hereafter, be free and open to all His Majesty's Subjects, for the Safety of their Persons, and Security

REBUAED

Security of their Effects, in case of Need or Emergency; but not to be made use of by any Persons or Traders whatsoever, as Repositories for Negroes, Goods, or Merchandizes, except Gold, Elephants Teeth, and Gunpowder: And that it shall and may be lawful for any of His Majesty's Subjects trading to *Africa*, for the Security of their Goods or Slaves, to erect Houses and Warehouses under the Protection of the said Forts, or elsewhere, in any other Part of *Africa*, within the Limits aforesaid, for the better carrying on of his or their Trade there; which Houses or Warehouses shall be the Property of the Person or Persons who shall build the same; but shall not be disposed of, or lett to any Foreigner whatsoever.

R E A S O N S.

In case the above Clause should stand as expressed in the Bill, the same may be attended with the following Inconveniences:

I. It may occasion great Confusion, and endless Disputes, as to the Quantity of Goods each Trader may have a Right to deposit in the Forts.

II. Undue Preferences may be given by the Agents at the Forts, to such Goods as may be sent over by their immediate Employers at Home; one of whom may be of the Committee: And by this means the Goods of indifferent Persons may, at all times, be excluded under some Pretence or other.

III. In case of an Attack in time of War, or Pirates being on the Coast, the Forts being always kept full of Goods, the trading Ships may, for want of Room, be prevented from landing their Cargoes, and lodging them in the said Forts and Warehouses there-to belonging, for their immediate Security.

IV. The Reason we assign for the above Exception, in regard to Gold, Elephants Teeth, and Gunpowder, being lodged in the Forts, is because the whole Quantity of Gold and Teeth, which we apprehend will at any time be purchased, may, without incommoding the Forts, be lodged therein: And as to Gunpowder, because, as all the Warehouses without the Walls of the Forts are usually thatched, it may be very liable to Danger from Lightning, and many other Accidents by Fire, &c.

C L A U S E

C L A U S E XIX.

It is presumed this Clause is very just, except in the Penality being fixed to One hundred Pounds, without any Power of mitigating the same, which may make an Offence of the least Nature, altho' attended with the most favourable Circumstances, liable to an equal Forfeiture with the most culpable: And therefore we would propose, that these Words (A Sum not exceeding Five hundred Pounds) may be inserted in lieu of One hundred Pounds; by which Alteration the Inconveniencies may be prevented, and the Offender meet with a Punishment adequate to the Crime.

N^o. VI.

Copy of a Representation from the Merchants Trading to *Africa* from the Port of *Leverpool*, to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations for carrying on, extending, and securing the Trade to *Africa*.

Liverpool, 24 Oct. 1749.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations;

The humble Representation of the Merchants Trading to *Africa* from the Port of *Leverpool*.

May it please Your Lordships,

IN Obedience to Your Lordships Directions, signified to us by Mr. Hill, we beg Leave to lay before you our Sentiments, with regard to the best Method of carrying on and extending this Trade, and in what manner the Forts and Settlements on the Coast may be most useful for this Purpose.

We need not mention to Your Lordships, that Fact and long Experience have sufficiently proved, that this Branch of Commerce never did flourish in the Hands of the Company, notwithstanding they have enjoyed many Advantages, and exclusive Privileges, as well as large Grants from the Publick; and been in Possession of all the Forts and Settlements for a long Term of Years.

From the first Grant of their Charter in 1672. to 1698. they had an exclusive Trade; but, during this Period, Your Lordships will find, there were frequent Complaints made from the Plantations,

tations, that they must be intirely given up, if the *African Trade* was not put on some other Footing, and the Trade extended so as to give them a better Supply of Negroes. And in 1698. the Trade being lost to the Nation, and the Plantations being reduced to a low Ebb, it was thought necessary to make an Alteration; and a Liberty was then given to the Subjects in general to trade on the *African Coast*, paying the Company 10 *per Cent.* for Fourteen Years: During this Period the Trade increased for Three or Four Years, at the first; but the Burden of 10 *per Cent.* was soon found too great for the Trade to bear; and before the End of this Term this valuable Branch was again almost intirely lost to the Nation, and the Plantations were in a miserable Condition for want of a proper Supply of Negroes, without which they never can be supported. Hence a Necessity appeared of a further Alteration; and from the Year 1712. the Trade was carried on by the separate Traders, without paying any thing to the Company; from which Period it greatly increased, and the Plantations were supplied better than they had ever been before, but principally by the separate Traders. For tho' the Company were in Possession of the Forts and Settlements, and all the Advantages that could be derived from thence; yet their Trade gradually decreased, and was so far totally lost, that, in the Year 1727. being reduced to the lowest Ebb, they were obliged to represent to your Honourable Board, That they were no longer able to carry on the Trade, or to maintain the Forts, without some Duty from the separate Traders, or some publick Aid. This occasioned the separate Traders to oppose their Attempts; and it ended, at last, in a Grant of Parliament of 10,000*l. per Annum*, which they have enjoyed so long, as to have received 170,000*l.* from the Publick since that Time. But the Event has shew'd, 'twas to very little Purpose; as they have now, in a manner (by their own Account), suffered the Forts to be quite ruinous; and they must be deserted, unless the Publick maintain them.

We need not be more particular to Your Lordships, as you have these Facts, fully stated, in your own Possession: We only hint them, to shew Your Lordships, That it is in vain for this Nation ever to attempt the Prosecution of the Trade, by any Company whatsoever; since you have had, already, sufficient Experience, that a Company with an exclusive Trade in one Period, and with 10 *per Cent.* from all the Traders of *Great Britain* during another, and with a large Grant from the Crown during another, and always in Possession of all the Forts and Settlements on the Coast, and laying the separate Traders under all the Hardships they could; yet, at all

all times, in the same Condition, unable to support themselves; much less to maintain a Trade suitable to the Wants of our Plantations, or to be of any real Service to the Nation.

And we need not hint to Your Lordships, that this is not peculiar to this Trade only, but will hold good with respect to the other Branches: For, in proportion as Trade is confined, it must languish and decay, and the Benefit to the Nation be, in a great measure, lost.

Your Lordships will also allow us to observe, There is greater Reason now, than at any former Period, to be watchful of this beneficial Branch of Commerce; as our greatest Rivals, the *French*, are pursuing it, with the greatest Care; and have not only laid it open to all the Subjects of *France*, but give very great Encouragements to it, above any other Branch of Commerce; well knowing, that the extending of it is what, alone, can make their Sugar-Plantations beneficial. And they have already so far prevailed, as to supply almost all *Europe* with Sugars; and will be still able to outdo us, from the Advantages they have at Home, and the large Price they sell their Negroes for; which is much more than the *British* Subjects can get for theirs.

We know very well, Your Lordships are convinced of the Importance of this Trade, and the Necessity of putting it on some proper Foot; and we are very glad we have this Opportunity given us, of laying our Sentiments before you; and we doubt not but Your Lordships own Sentiments will concur with what we have the Honour to represent; viz. That there is no other Method to be found out for settling this Trade on a proper Foundation, to answer the Purposes of the Publick, to support and enlarge our Plantations, and, in some measure, enable us to vie with other Rival Nations, but that it remain intirely open and free to all his Majesty's Subjects, without any Charge whatsoever; or rather (if possible) that some further Advantages should be annexed to it. This Method has, by the Experience of former Time, been found the best; and by this, only, has it been extended to such a Height, as not this, nor any other Nation, ever saw it before.

And Your Lordships will permit us to hint, That the Representations last Year, in favour of this Scheme, at the Bar of the House of Commons, procured the unanimous Resolutions of that House to this Purpose; to which we beg Leave to refer you.

We have, therefore, nothing further to trouble Your Lordships with, on this Subject, but to recommend what we think the best Scheme for preserving the *British* Forts and Settlements on that Coast, and rendering them more useful to the Trade, and of more Service

Service to the Publick: And we cannot do this more agreeably to our own Sentiments, than by recommending the Scheme on which the Bill was founded that passed the House of Commons last Session.

That the Government should take them into their own Hands, and support them at a publick Expence, for the impartial and undistinguished Benefit of every Trader (which we hope the Trade well deserves); and that the Disposition of the Money, which shall be granted by Parliament for this Purpose, may be put into the Hands of a Committee of Three Persons, Traders to the Coast, from *London*; Three from *Bristol*, and Three from *Leverpool*; liable to account every Year, in such manner as was pointed out by said Bill: And we propose, That the Committee should consist of Persons from these Three Ports only; because the Trade, in a great measure, is now carried on from *Bristol* and *Leverpool*; and it is natural to suppose They are most likely to execute this Trust in the best Manner, who have most Concern in the Success of it. And we propose Three in *London*, as it is the Capital; tho' the Trade from thence is not large, to this Coast.

And we apprehend, the Wisdom of Parliament would always pursue the same Steps; that, as Trade is fluctuating, whenever this Branch is removed to other Places, the Committee may also go with it.

And as we take this to be the only Method of fixing the Forts and Settlements on that Coast, to answer the best Purposes to Trade, and to be useful to the Publick; so we beg Leave further to lay before Your Lordships the bad Consequence of having them in the Hands of any Trading Company: The Experience of former Times shews, that such a Company have always done all in their Power to prevent the Natives from going off to, or trading with, the Ships at Sea, or any one else on Shore but themselves: And their own Advantage will always incline them to do the same. Whereby the Trade has been, and must be, in a great measure, removed from the Settlements to *Annamaboe*, and other Places of free Trade in the Neighbourhood of them. In Proof of this, we may venture to assert, That more Negroes have been carried from *Annamaboe* alone, in One Year, to our *American* Plantations, than have been in Ten Years from all our *Gold-Coast* Settlements put together; for which no Cause can be assigned; but the Freedom of Trade there, and the Want of it at the Forts: Besides, all the Negroes, which the Company can purchase, would be sold to foreign Nations our Rivals in Trade, and our own Plantations hereby be ill supplied with *Gold-Coast* Negroes, the best of all others:

M

For

For the separate Traders cannot give the Prices the Company will always put upon them; which Prices they may get from the Dutch, French, and Portuguese Ships, as they can sell them in their American Settlements for near Double of what the British Subjects can get in any of ours.

The Consequence will, therefore, certainly be, that these Foreigners will be admitted to the Forts by the Company, and carry off the whole Trade.

By the above Regulations these, and many other, bad Consequences, will be effectually prevented; and if it be established with that Equality of Power in the Execution, to each of the Three principal Ports of the Kingdom (which was thought to be necessary by all Parties, when the Bill was formed last Session, and which, we hope, from the State of the Trade of the Two Out-Ports, will appear to be their Due); we doubt not it will produce all the valuable Effects from our African Forts and Settlements, which the Nation can desire or expect; and will give every British Subject an equal Share in the Benefit of them: Which is all we propose, or can aim at, in this Representation to Your Lordships.

Hereby they may be rendered greatly useful, and well worth preserving; but in the Hands of a Company they will be (as they hitherto have been) a Burden and Nuisance, and obstruct, rather than serve, our foreign Trade and Navigation.

We shall trouble Your Lordships no further on this Head at present, but to assure you, We think ourselves under the greatest Obligations to Your Lordships for giving us this Opportunity of explaining our Sentiments on this important Affair, in which we have so great a Concern: And we rejoice that it is to be laid before a Board so well acquainted with the true Interest of the Trade. We doubt not but a Report will be made, by Your Lordships, that will answer the most valuable Purposes to the Publick. And in this Confidence we remain, my Lords,

Your Lordships most Obedient Humble Servants,

Signed,

*Ad. Lightbody
John Williamson
Steel Perkins
Wm. Rowe
Wm. Gregoone
Geo. Langton*

*John Kennion
Law. Spencer
Dav. Paterson
Richard Nicholas
John Hulton
Wm. Willock*

*Jof. Davies
Rd. Gildart
Bryan Blundell
Joseph Clegg
John Brooks
Edw. Forbes
John*

*John Crompton
John Nicholson
James Fleetwood
Benj. Heywood
John Strong
John Parr
John Goodwin
Will. Goodwin
Edw. Trafford
J. Colquitt
Chr. Whytell
Tim. Farran
Will. Clarke
Robert Fleetwood
Tho. Rumbold
Isaac Blackwood
Tho. Harrison.*

*Geo. Campbell
Hen. White
Tho. Dunbar
John Boston
Jam. Crostie
Wm. Bulkeley
Geo. Laidler
Rich. Hughes
Wm. Hornby
Dan. Macneale
Levinus Answorth
Tho. Letherbarrow
Millin Eaton
Tho. Kendall
John Parke.*

*Owen Richard
Charles Goore
Tho. Seel
John Knight
John Tarleton
Tho. Mears
David Edie
Rob. Cunliffe
Foster Cunliffe
Sam. Ogden
John Hardman
Henry Townsend
Joseph Bird
Peter Pemberton.*

No. VII.

*John Crompton
John Nicholson
James Fleetwood
Benj. Heywood
John Strong
John Parr
John Goodwin
Will. Goodwin
Edw. Trafford
J. Colquitt
Chr. Whytell
Tim. Farran
Will. Clarke
Robert Fleetwood
Tho. Rumbold
Isaac Blackwood
Tho. Harrison.*

*Geo. Campbell
Hen. White
Tho. Dunbar
John Botstock
Jam. Crosbie
Wm. Bulkeley
Geo. Laidler
Rich. Hughes
Wm. Hornby
Dan. Macneale
Levinus Answorth
Tho. Letherbarrow
Millin Eaton
Tho. Kendall
John Parke.*

*Owen Richard
Charles Goore
Tho. Seel
John Knight
John Tarleton
Tho. Mears
David Edie
Rob. Cunliffe
Foster Cunliffe
Sam. Ogden
John Hardman
Henry Townsend
Joseph Bird
Peter Pemberton.*

N^o. VII.

Copy of a Representation from the Sugar-Planters and others, to the Commissioners for *Trade and Plantations*, for retrieving, extending, and preserving the Trade to *Africa*.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations;

The Representation of the Sugar-Planters, &c.

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT we think it altogether unnecessary to mention to your Lordships the vast Importance of our Trade to *Africa*; since the very Existence and Preservation of the *British* Sugar-Colonies depend on it: And, as most of all our Fortunes are in the Sugar-Colonies, we beg Leave to lay our Thoughts before your Lordships, with regard to preserving that valuable Branch of Commerce, in which the general Trade and Navigation of this Nation is so essentially interested.

That it is with the deepest Concern we see our dangerous Rivals the *French* carrying on successfully this Branch of Trade to the Coast of *Guiney*; by which they are enabled to improve and extend, to an incredible Height, their Commerce to and from their Sugar-Colonies: And notwithstanding the Crown of *Great Britain* has been in Possession of that Trade, particularly on the *Gold-Coast*, *Whydah*, and *Gambia*, above Fourscore Years; yet the *French* are daily encroaching on our Rights there. Wherefore, unless some immediate Care is taken to preserve the Forts and Fortifications on that Coast, the *French* will soon become Masters thereof; and, consequently, of the most valuable Branches of Trade on the Coast of *Africa*; as they will erect new Forts and Fortifications where-ever there is Trade; and

and thereby soon exclude the Subjects of *Great Britain* from every other Part of that Coast, as they have already done from the *Gum-Coast*. To preserve and secure this Trade therefore to the *British* Subjects, and to render it beneficial to our Colonies, we are humbly of Opinion,

I. That our Forts and Fortifications there ought to be put into, and constantly kept, not only in a defensible, but in a respectable Condition.

II. That, as the Aid of Parliament is absolutely necessary for that Purpose, the Ends of granting such Aid will be much better answered, by committing that Trust, and the Application of the Money the Parliament shall grant, to an incorporated Body of Men with a Joint-Stock (made answerable, under Penalties, for the due Execution thereof), than to any temporary, mutable, and transient Set of Men whatsoever, who might renounce it at Pleasure, and who would be answerable each for his own Acts only, and not one for the Acts of another.

III. That this Trade will be carried on most beneficially to the *British* Nation, and our Colonies, by a Company with a joint trading Stock; without any exclusive Privileges, but under such Regulations and Restrictions as will leave the Trade free and open to all His Majesty's Subjects; with this particular Condition, That such a Company have Liberty of carrying annually to the *British* Colonies a certain Number of Negroes to be limited by Parliament, as, without that Liberty, it is extremely doubtful whether the Company will be able to employ their Capital to Advantage: And if there is not a reasonable Prospect of that, it cannot be expected, that such Capital can ever be raised.

As to the first Point, it is well known that Trade is now considered by almost every State in *Europe* as the Source of Wealth, and Wealth as the Measure of Power, and therefore as eagerly contended for as Territory. As no one thinks that he is longer secure in any Territory, than whilst he is able to defend it, it would be in vain, as we conceive, for the *British* Nation to think itself secure in the Possession of a Branch of Commerce so very valuable as this, with nothing to protect it but Forts kept up as mere Marks of Possession, and so defenceless, that every Rival in Trade may kick down with his Foot whenever he

Pleases; that is, whenever the Bait shall prove a sufficient Temptation to begin a Quarrel.

With regard to the Second Point, our Reasons for thinking, that this Trust would be better and more faithfully executed by a Joint-Stock Company, than by private Men, are,

1. Because such a Company would be more interested in the Duration and Condition of these Forts, than any private Man, or Number of private Men, would be. For the Care of the latter would extend no farther than to make such Reparations as might last during their own Time, without having any the least Concern, if the Building were to drop at the End thereof: Whereas the Care of a Company would be not only to make a present, but a lasting Reparation; it being much more reasonable to expect, that a Tenant, who, has the Inheritance of a House, would repair it in a more durable manner, and make better Provision for upholding it, than a Tenant who has only a Lease for a small Number of Years.
2. Because the Publick will have a much better Security for the due Application of the Money so granted by Parliament, from a Company with a Joint-Stock, made answerable for it, than they can have from any private Persons whatsoever.
3. Because such a Company would naturally be much more cautious not to take any Step to prejudice the future Trade, and much more capable and solicitous to extend the Inland Trade, hitherto greatly neglected, than any private Man, or Number of private Men, whose only View would be present Profit, without the least Regard to Consequences.

With respect to the Third Point;

1. That all agree it is the Interest of this Nation, that the *British* Colonies be supplied with a Number of Negroes equal to their Wants; and that the more Money is employed in this Trade, the more Negroes will be imported into our Colonies; and the more there are imported, the less exorbitant will their Prices be: And as it is evident that more Money will be employed in it, when it is divided between a Company and private Traders, than if it were confined to private Traders only, we cannot help thinking, as the separate Traders are very sensible

of

of this, but they at present will strongly oppose a Company's having the Liberty of carrying any Negroes from *Africa* to the *British Colonies*; well knowing, that, if none can supply those Colonies but themselves, they will then have it much in their Power to buy from the Company on the Coast of *Africa*, at such Prices only as they shall think proper; and, on their Arrival at the Colonies, to impose their own Prices on the Planters. Besides, those separate Traders will also have it in their Option to introduce into our Colonies, none but the worst kind of Negroes that can be purchased cheap, at *Calabar*, *Congo*, *Angola*, and other Parts of *Africa*, and thereby neglect the *Gold-Coast* and *Whydah*, where our Forts and Castles are situated; notwithstanding the only proper Negroes for the Preservation of our Sugar-Colonies are to be purchased no-where but on that Part of the Coast of *Africa*.

Our Reason for doubting whether a Company will be able to employ their Capital to Advantage, if they are not permitted to carry a certain Number of Negroes to our Colonies, is, that if they have that Liberty, a good Part of their Capital may be thus employed, and their chief Profit will arise from buying Negroes on the Coast; all which, were they restrained from exporting, they must sell to private Traders there, who would soon know how to make their Advantage of this Prohibition, and turn it to the utter Ruin of the Company. For, if the Company should at any time buy up a great Number of Negroes, which they could not sell but to the separate Traders on the Coast, as being debarred the Liberty of carrying them to our Colonies, it is but too probable, that those Traders would force the Company to sell their Negroes even under prime Cost, or leave them on their Hands. So that if ever the Company should find themselves in this Circumstance (which they must often be, or else let a good Part of their Capital lie dead and unemployed), it will be much more eligible to sell such Negroes, though at a losing Price, than to keep them: For Negroes, like Horses bought for Sale, will soon eat off their Heads.

Further, Since those Negroes must be confined within the Walls of their Forts (as it will not be safe either to work them, or give them the Liberty of walking about), if they are long kept on hand in such Numbers, and under such Confinement, there will be a great Risque of introducing some infectious Distemper among them: So that, what with the Hazard of Mortality, and the Expence of Maintenance, the Company must be under a Necessity of selling them at the private Trader's Price.

2. That

2. That such a Company, with proper Encouragements and Directions to promote a good Understanding and Harmony with all *British* separate Traders, may become exceedingly advantageous to all Parties concerned: For thereby such Traders may be induced to purchase Part of their Negroes of the Company, and thus dispatch their Ships in Three or Four Weeks, instead of Three or Four Months; whereby they will be considerable Gainers; in Demurrage particularly, besides sundry other heavy Charges; but above all, in the Health and Soundness of their Negroes before Sale: And, finally, by means of such Dispatch on the Coast, the separate Traders will be enabled to afford Negroes much healthier and cheaper to the Planters; which are Considerations of the greatest Consequence and Moment.

As to the Objection which the separate Traders may make, That if a Joint-Stock Company has a Power to send Negroes from *Gambia*, the *Gold Coast*, and *Whydah*, directly to our Colonies, they will be thereby enabled to monopolize that Trade intirely to themselves; it is answered, That the Extensiveness of the Coast, and the restraining the Company, as to the Number of Negroes they shall be permitted to send to our Colonies, will prevent all Possibility of any Consequence of this Nature; especially as the separate Traders may at all Times purchase Negroes on those Coasts from the Natives, in case the Company's Factors should refuse to supply them with Negroes at reasonable Prices: Which they never can be supposed to do, as it will be always the Company's Interest to supply the separate Traders at such Prices as they can afford to give. And thus, by having the one a Cheque on the other, this most valuable Branch of Commerce will, in our Opinion, be retrieved and extended, to the Honour and Interest of this Nation, and the *British* Colonies be better and cheaper supplied.

That, in Addition to the above Representation, we are humbly of Opinion, it will be indispensably necessary to have some Ships of War constantly stationed on the Coast of *Africa*, with proper Powers, and full Instructions, to preserve inviolable the Rights of the Crown of *Great Britain*, and of the Trading *British* Subjects; and to prevent the *French* from carrying on any Trade to the *Gold-Coast* and *Gambia*; without which all other Endeavours for preserving this Trade will be fruitless: And therefore we beg Leave earnestly to recommend this to your Lordships most serious Attention.

We

We cannot conclude, without begging your Lordships Permission to return you our most sincere Thanks for that Regard which you have been pleased to shew us, in consulting upon this Occasion; and most humbly submit what we have here offered to your Lordships Consideration.

John Sharpe, Agent for { Jamaica
and
Barbados.

<i>Home</i>	<i>John Gray</i>
<i>Montfort</i>	<i>Valentine Morris</i>
<i>Olyphant</i>	<i>John Ashley</i>
<i>Samuel Pennant</i>	<i>Julines Beckford</i>
<i>J. Spooner</i>	<i>J. Drax</i>
<i>Zach. Bourrayau</i>	<i>Edw. Drax</i>
<i>Matthew Mills</i>	<i>Fra. Mahon</i>
<i>Tobias Frere</i>	<i>Je. Trenit</i>
<i>Jonas Langford</i>	<i>Edward Garthwaite</i>
<i>Henry Lascelles</i>	<i>John Colleton</i>
<i>Wm. Whitaker</i>	<i>James Herbert</i>
<i>J. Maxwell</i>	<i>Thomas Hart</i>
<i>Jos. Osborne Bruce</i>	<i>M. Madan</i>
<i>Thomas Strode</i>	<i>Thro. Saaff</i>
<i>Thomas Walker</i>	<i>John Ashley jun.</i>
<i>Jonas Maynard</i>	<i>James Egan</i>
<i>Alex. Johnston</i>	<i>J. Spooner</i>
<i>Geo. Barclay</i> <i>✓</i>	<i>Sam. Martin</i>
<i>Beeston Long</i>	<i>Tho. Walker.</i>
<i>James Gordon</i>	